

# ***TURKEY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL***

January 29, 2013  
***Minutes of Meeting***

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Present: Timothy Santry, Heidi Champagne, Beth Arsenault, Rhonda Connery, Wendy Bertrand, Laura Friend, Bob Meek-LaVeck

Beth Arsenault read the minutes. There are no corrections.

## **Building Update**

- In response to the sudden passing of Elizabeth Turner, a 5th grade tutor and mother of a 4th grade student, the Safety Team was called in to discuss the best way for the school to handle the situation. The team met in the early hours with the district counselors to identify individuals or groups that were considered high impact for hearing the news. The group created a statement that would be read by faculty to each homeroom. Along with a constant presence of the counselors available, they designated safe areas for students in need of more help.
- Three days later the Safety Team met again to prepare a statement for the Newtown, Connecticut shooting.

## **Building Safety Assessment**

- Also in response to the Connecticut incident, the school held a mock lockdown for faculty only so that we could report on any concerns that might be identified to the administration.
- Mrs. Champagne handed out a summary of these concerns, and they will be discussed at the town Summit meeting on January 30th so that they can be addressed by the district administration and emergency personnel.
- The Council had a discussion about some of the items and Mrs. Friend contributed what Nashoba Regional has been discussing as well. Both schools, as many others do, have very similar security concerns.

## **Great Books**

- Fred Hang will again be coming to model discussions for non-fiction selections on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He will model for six classrooms, two in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, two in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and two in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- On April 4<sup>th</sup>, THMS will host a Learning Walk, a chance for 25 out of district educators to come and observe the Great Books model in action by select faculty members.

## **Results**

- A data-driven model created by Mike Schmoker, where teachers refer to and analyze data to observe classroom trends and subsequently adjust curriculum maps to address identified needs. Our data comes mainly from TestWiz, AIMSweb, and MCAS results.
- Faculty has been using this model at a minimum at one Faculty Meeting a month. A report of strengths and weaknesses is provided to Mr. Santry, as well as methods of addressing noted areas. An example of this as a successful practice, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade noticed that problems involving percent increase or decrease of a number on the Math MCAS and adjusted their teaching practices to spend more time on this content. The Student Growth Percentile went from 39% to 65% over the last couple of years.
- Almost across the board, Open Response Questions are a struggle. More and more time is spent preparing students for ORQ's, reviewing answers in class, discussing answers for previously used MCAS questions.

## **Handbooks**

- Council will review the student and parent handbooks, in particular the Code of Conduct. Members will keep in mind that changes may need to be made in order to make the books age appropriate for a 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade middle school.
- Any recommendations will be sent to Mr. Santry by the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

## **Miscellaneous**

- An Early Bus will most likely be made available after the bus company firms up the routes. It will be available on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at no additional cost. Middle school students will board the high school buses and then at LHS, board a bus to THMS.
- MCAS Session I Long Composition for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Seventh grader Will Broden won the Geography Bee, with Steven Olsen as the runner up, and will compete in Worcester.
- The Spelling Bee will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and February 15<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll breakfast will be at 7am on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- THMS received \$3500 for the Fuel it Up to Play 60 grant which Mrs. Laserte used to purchase 60 pairs of snow shoes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

**Next Meeting** is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.